

# REASONS

Humbly Offered

On Behalf of the Inhabitants at large of the Parish of *St. George, Hanover-Square*, against *A Bill for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish.*

**T**HIS Bill is declared to be founded on the Necessity, the Use, and the Reason, why such new Officers should be constituted, as in the Bill is mentioned, instead of such as the Laws, Time immemorial, have appointed for the same Purposes.

That Necessity is the Lowness of the Rates, which are therefore more difficult or more expensive to get in than if they were higher. This refers principally to the Highway Rates.

In Answer to which we say, That the Highway Rates are more easily recovered in this Parish than in most others, and at less Hazard and Expence, as they are specially directed to the Means, not only by the 14th of his present Majesty, but by former Acts, and the Method for Recovery, thereby given, is plain, easy, and without Expence; and if this Rate is thought too small for the Surveyors to collect, we have no Objection to add the Scavengers Rate thereto, to be received at the same time by the same Officers; but apprehend there can be no Reason for increasing the Parish Expence, by constituting a salaried Officer, hitherto totally unknown to our Laws: And as to annexing the Poor's to other Rates, we apprehend a great Inconvenience therefrom, as hereafter remarked.

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The Use proposed by these Officers does not appear either necessary or beneficial, not only as no Inconvenience, Hazard, or Loss ~~have~~ hitherto happened from employing such as the Laws in Force direct, and put the Parish to no Expence, or complain of the Trouble, but also, as they are more likely to answer the Ends of their respective Duties, than these new Officers intended to be introduced by this Bill in their stead. Why therefore should the Course of Law be altered at an additional Expence to the Parish, and without any Fruit or Benefit?

The Reason then of constituting new Officers by special Appointment by the Vestry, seems only to bring a fix'd Charge upon the Parish, and intimates as if the Parish Rates were too low, which would be thought a Benefit in any other Place: And it is observed as a general Rule, That the Multiplication of Laws, while they remedy one Inconvenience, produce many Mischiefs which the Eyes of Projectors do not immediately perceive, but are generally too plain in the Consequence; and in this Case we apprehend will singularly appear, as it is not understood how the other Acts and Officers, as supposed in the Bill, can subsist without Confusion if this Act takes Place.

The Inconvenience of receiving all the Rates together, though in themselves very moderate in respect to most other Parishes, may, notwithstanding, be very significant to many, especially the lower Sort of the Inhabitants, who can better pay their Taxes in small Portions, and at different Times, than in larger Sums, and at one Time.

And it is further to be observed, That although the Rates in so large and rich a Parish are moderate as to Individuals, the Sum of all together is too considerable to be trusted in any one Man's Hands under personal Credit or Security, in which those who take such Security are oftentimes mistaken, and at the best may, instead of being an effectual Security for the Public Money, only lead the Parish into an expensive Course of Law, and that not to be commenced until a great Length of Time has made it appear what Money any Collector may happen to go off with, and then the Security can only be charged with what every Individual proves he has paid him, nor can the Parish, while this is transacting, raise new Rates, nor will there be any body to take Care of the Poor, besides the Expence and Confusion every possible Accident of this Kind might create.

And as it is evident the Wisdom of our present Laws have not subjected the Parish to the same Risque, as the Justices in Petty Sessions  
may



may chuse the Parish Officers, as the Law directs, and as no Accident of the like Kind can possibly happen under prudent Management, it seems a very extraordinary Attempt in any Set of Men, either through Wantonness, or in Defect of being better informed, to bring at once an unnecessary Risque on the Parish, and at the same time to make the Parish pay annually a Salary for a fair Chance of some time paying their Rates twice over.

That though there are amongst the Vestry-Men in this Parish several Persons of great Quality, Honour, and Fortune, who would be a Security to the Parish that nothing improper should be done by the Vestry, if they themselves attended the Meetings and Duties of the Vestry; but every body knows, from their great Quality, and other Avocations, they scarce ever attend the public Business of the Parish, and by that Means the whole Parish Affairs are conducted by a few of much inferior Fortunes and Stations; which is a Reason why the legal Rules and Forms of the Parish ought not to be altered, merely to throw an Increase of continual Power into the Hands of those few who act in the Vestry.

In Truth these are not the only Objections we have to make to this very new and extraordinary Bill, though we conceive them amply sufficient; but shall only take notice of one more, which is a Clause for the taking Care of all the poor Children that may happen to stray into this Parish, which by the Way is little less than desiring a Law to subject this opulent Parish to the Maintenance and Support of all the Vagabonds in this Kingdom.



# R E A S O N S

Against the

BILL now depending, *For the better  
Relief and Employment of the Poor of  
the Parish of St. George, Hanover-  
Square, &c.*



